

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 12, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire November 12, 2004. Previously submitted claims 26-35 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 26-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,812,786, issued to Seazholtz et al. (hereinafter *Seazholtz*), in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,999,563, issued to Polley et al. (hereinafter *Polley*) and U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0067811 filed by Matsumoto (hereinafter *Matsumoto*). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the foregoing reasons.

Applicants' invention is directed to method for inverting an ADSL communication session. Conventional ADSL connectivity includes a splitter that divides the higher-frequency ADSL communication channels (described as high-speed channel and medium speed duplex channel in Applicants' specification) from the original POTS or ISDN channel. Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 26-36, advantageously leverages this configuration enabling invert requests to be processed using the non-ADSL channels (i.e. the low-frequency telephone channel). To this end, independent method claim 26 recites a method for dynamically inverting an ADSL system having a central exchange equipment (CE) splitter coupled between the CE transceiver and the PSTN link, with the splitter including a low-pass filter for separating low frequency voice signals from higher frequency ADSL signals transmitted over the PSTN link, the method comprising:

"generating an invert request message encoded as a tone sequence within [a] UE and transmitted to said CE over said PSTN link;"

"receiving the tone-encoded invert request through the CE splitter low-pass filter;" and

"decoding the received tone-encoded invert request utilizing a tone decoder communicatively coupled between the CE splitter low-pass filter and said CE transceiver."

Ample support for this limitation is provided in Applicants' Fig. 3 (showing the tone decoder 68 and tone generator 62 coupled between low pass filter 64 and the ADSL transceiver unit 46).

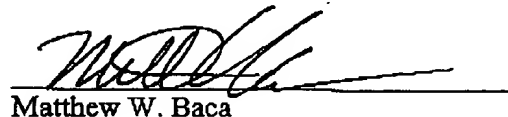
Regarding the grounds for rejecting claim 26, it is agreed that *Seazholtz* discloses that the transmission bit rate of an ADSL system may be selectively reversed between asymmetric uplink and downlink channels. It is further agreed that *Polley* discloses using modem tone exchanges for rate negotiation in a DSL context and that *Matsumoto* (as well as AAPA, Figs. 1 and 2A) discloses the previously mentioned use of splitters employing low-frequency filters. Applicants note that the cited art provides no nexus between the use of filters in ADSL splitters and ADSL inversion requests. Applicants' claim 26 recites an inversion request handling method wherein low-frequency content from the splitter low-pass filter (ordinarily not ADSL-processed) is ADSL-processed by an invert request decoder coupled between the ADSL transceiver and the filter to effectuate ADSL inversion. Nothing in *Seazholtz*, *Polley*, or *Matsumoto*, individually or in any combination, discloses or suggests utilizing the split-off low frequency non-ADSL channel for processing an ADSL session inversion. More specifically, nothing in the foregoing references or any other prior art Applicants are aware of, discloses an ADSL inversion method including a step of "decoding the received tone-encoded invert request utilizing a tone decoder communicatively coupled between the CE splitter low-pass filter and said CE transceiver."

For the foregoing reasons it is submitted that claims 26-36 are patentably distinct from the cited prior art references and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

No extension of time is believed to be required. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, please charge that extension fee and any other required fees to **IBM Corporation Deposit Account Number 09-0457.**

Applicants request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at (512) 343-6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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